

INDEXA



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Daily Information Session — 14.236 MHz @ 23:30z

The story about ST0RY by Chris Sauvageot, DL5NAM

After activating Eritrea twice as E30TA and E30NA we took the decision for the Sudan, one of the rarest DXCC entities. After a long planning phase, a very powerful crew was established consisting of Dietmar, DL3DXX; Falk, DK7YY; Felix, DL7FER; Uwe, DL9NDS; and Chris, DL5NAM. All participants had gathered plenty of knowledge and experience on all together 30 to 40 DXpeditions with some 100,000 QSOs.

We began our trip on March 17, 2003, flying from Frankfurt with a 12-hour stopover in UAE (Dubai) to Khartoum, Sudan. At our arrival in Khartoum we were picked up by two friends. This was very helpful because we could pass through customs without wasting too much time.

Our luggage (almost 250 kg without cargo) was stored in two cars and we made our way to the hotel. The next two days we tried to find an appropriate low band location and take care of our equipment that came via cargo from Germany. We also visited the Sudanese PTT to obtain our ST0RY license. The weather was oppressive; we had 25 degrees C at nighttime and up to 45 degrees at daytime.

The search for a suitable low band QTH was much more difficult than expected. Khartoum has officially more than 7 million inhabitants; however, the reality is that there are



The ST0RY team: (l.-r.) DL3DXX, DL7FER, DK7YY, DL9NDS, and DL5NAM

more than 12 million.

All attempts to get a place in the vicinity of the city failed either because of the price (approximately 3,000 US\$ for 2 weeks) or because of the extremely primitive lodging facilities. One of the last opportunities was the property of the Khartoum Sea Scouts. By chance it turned out that one of the responsible persons there is a Ham—Magdi, ST2M—who is not active. He was very impressed by our project and

after a few phone calls he got the permission from his boss for our project.

The property itself is situated directly at the river Nile, almost right at the point where the White and the Blue Nile join. There were business buildings, authorities, and the president's palace in our neighborhood. We found out that we had enough space for our different low band antennas so we decided to settle there.

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The team departs from Frankfurt on March 16: (l. to r.) DL5NAM, DL9NDS, DL3DXX, and DK7YY.

We got tremendous support by the Sea Scouts. After all, this decision turned out to be the best one! Even the noise level on the low bands was acceptable.

After we passed successfully through the difficulties at customs (payment of not inconsiderable fees) we could finally begin to install our stations and antennas. The computer room of the Scouts became our shack.



(l. to r.) DL3DXX, a visitor, DL9NDS, and DK7YY

Setting up the antennas was no greater problem and at the end of the first day the first set of our antennas and three complete stations were installed. Now we were ready to get on the air.

The last activity of the Sudan on the low bands was some 20 years ago. As a matter of fact, we had set our focus (and antennas!) to these bands. RTTY was also a focus. Two Titanex V80E verticals with home-

brew matching units, two Titanex LP5 log periodics for 20/17/15/12/10m, a Force 12 6Y-80, a Force 12 6Y-160, a Butternut HF6V and a 6 meter antenna were used. Every station was equipped with ACOM 1000 amplifiers. We used CT as logging software, RCKRTTY for RTTY, and AIR-MAIL2000 with a PTC II for e-mails.



The Titanex V80E and the LP5



The RTTY and SSB station (ICOM 756 Pro)

It was our strategy to neglect the high bands 20m, 15m, and 10m a little before the WPX SSB because we wanted to take part in this contest. At the same ST2CF served the deserving with SSB contacts on the high bands. Propagation on the low bands was very different every day. Almost 9,000 QSOs came into our logs during the WPX with a claimed score of more than 31 million. After all we had a DXpedition QSO of more than 48,000 QSOs. The QSO statistics showed 1255 QSOs on 160m and 2880 on 80m at the end.



This is the view towards Europe.

1-Band QSOs:	7747
2-Band QSOs:	2927
3-Band QSOs:	1664
4-Band QSOs:	1151
5 -Band QSOs:	946
6-Band QSOs:	538
7-Band QSOs:	399
8-Band QSOs:	360
9-Band QSOs:	300
10-Band QSOs:	3

The number of 9-band QSOs in our log was remarkable.

On 6 meters we had propagation only on two or three days. Another problem was that we caused TVI; we knocked out the telephone and TV system in all of the vicinity of the president's palace!

Disassembling the station and the way back home were not spectacular despite the political situation at that

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View over Khartoum

time. Parts of our equipment were left at the Sea Scouts in Khartoum with the hope that they will become active in the near future. They now have a transceiver, a power supply, and antenna and coax cable.

With STORY we introduced an innovation in QSLing—the Online QSL Request System (OQRS). The idea came from Chris, DL5NAM, and Bernd, DF3CB, realized it on his web page. Anyone who has worked STORY and can be found in the log can request his STORY QSL via an online form. All stored data is checked against the log by the QSL manager and afterwards processed and printed by the QSL label software BV.



DL3DXX, ST2M, DL5NAM and a guest

The requested QSL cards are then sent via the bureau. This saves time because the applicant does not need to send his own QSL; it reduces the QSL bureau costs a little and it helps to reduce the QSL manager's workload.

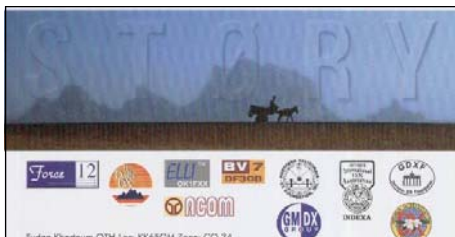
After a few days it turned out to be

a very popular system as we can see from all the entries and comments. We are sure OQRS will be used for other future DXpeditions, too.

Many thanks to INDEXA and all commercial and individual sponsors who helped us! Without all this financial and logistical support we wouldn't have managed to bring our equipment into the Sudan. A special thanks goes to our four pilot stations,



**DL9NDS and DL3DXX
enjoying coffee**



The STORY QSL card

DF3CB, K6GNX, N5FG, JA3AWW, and to our webmaster, DF3CB, who spent more time with STORY affairs than he expected. We are very happy about the many positive e-mails and entries in the guestbook on our website at <www.df3cb.com/story>.

Finally, there is only one more question left: Where do we go next? Any ideas?

It's not too late to sign-up for the e-version of the INDEXA newsletter! Send your request to Bill Jennings, W4UNP.
w4unp@comporium.net

Herb Jordan, W9LA Staff Profile



**Herb Jordan, W9LA, Staff Member
INDEXA Information Session**

INDEXA Information Session staff member, Herb Jordan, W9LA, earned his Class B amateur license in July of 1950 and was issued the callsign, W9LAA. In 1951 he obtained a Class A license. In 1975 he progressed to Amateur Extra and became W9LA in 1976.

He attended college, North Central College (IL), and received a BS degree in engineering. Shortly thereafter he obtained a First Class commercial license and went to work for WTKM in Hartford. In 1953 he moved to Madison where he worked for WKOW-TV, WISC-TV and WHA-TV. Herb retired from WHA-TV in June of 1990.

W9LA boasts a TS-870 transceiver, TL-922 HF amplifier, SB-610 monitor scope, TM-721 dual band FM transceiver, DX-Cluster packet equipment and an Apple computer for logging. He has a TH6 at 60 ft. with a VHF/UHF dual band antenna and a small beam for packet.

Herb belongs to many amateur radio clubs and organizations in addition to INDEXA. He has earned DXCC mixed (361), phone (360), CW (311) and DXCC #1. In addition, DXCC and Bicentennial 200 QSL awards hang on the walls. He received the MDXC Hog award in 1998 and 2003.

Herb, thanks for your commitment and service to INDEXA!

(Photo and information courtesy of W9LA and the Madison DX Club)

2004-2005 Election Results

Thanks to all who participated in the 2004-2005 election process.
The results are final and INDEXA's officers for the coming year are:

President: Judy Roush, AA7UC
Vice President: Ron Wright, ZL1AMO
Secretary-Treasurer: Bill Jennings, W4UNP

Directors: Richard Grant, W9RG, Chairman
Ron Wright, ZL1AMO
Franz Langner, DJ9ZB
Nellie Saltiel de Lazard, XE1CI

Executive Committee: Judy Roush, AA7UC
Bill Jennings, W4UNP
Ron Wright, ZL1AMO

A word of gratitude

The directors and officers of the International DX Association would like to take a moment to express gratitude to all members of INDEXA for their continuing support throughout the year.

Every contribution, whether it's time and talent, monetary, or a combination of both, is vital to the life and goals of our association.

Thank you for your continuing support and please be assured that all donations will continue to support rare and semi-rare DX!

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